

J.C. Watts, Jr.
Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 9:30 a.m. for Morning Hour and 11:00 a.m. for
Legislative Business*

Anticipated Floor Action:

**H. R. 2418—Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network
Amendments of 1999**

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**H.R. 2418—Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Amendments
of 1999**

Floor Situation: The House will consider H. R. 2418 as its only order of business today. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted a structured rule that provides one hour of general debate equally divided between the chairman and the ranking member of the Committee on Commerce. It makes in order a committee amendment in the nature of a substitute as base text. The Rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the report in the order listed below, and to be offered only by a Member so designated with the time to be divided between the proponent and the opponent. It waives all points of order against the amendments in the report and provides for one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Summary: The bill amends the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend programs relating to organ procurement and transplantation. It also requires the Organ Procurement and Transportation Network to carry out studies and demonstration projects to improve procedures for organ procurement and allocation. In addition, the bill mandates the development of a peer review system to assure that members of the Network comply with appropriate medical and other specified criteria. The Health and Human Services Secretary is directed to establish additional procedures for providing oversight of, and public accountability for, operation of the Network. Furthermore, the bill authorizes the Secretary to award grants or contracts for payment of travel and subsistence expenses incurred toward living organ donation and studies and demonstration projects. Finally, to ensure that the public is made more aware about organ dona-

tion the Secretary is directed to carry out a public education campaign. H.R. 2418 makes clear that the Secretary of Health and Human Services has important oversight duties, but that policy-making is clearly the responsibility of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network. In addition to clarifying the role of Secretarial authority, H.R. 2418 also addresses the underlying problem of an inadequate organ supply by promoting incentives to increase organ donation (e.g., the bill includes innovative provisions to help reduce the financial burden on living donors who donate an organ to someone living in another state).

Amendments: At press time, the *Legislative Digest* knew of the following amendments:

Ms. DeGette will offer an amendment to provide a technical revision to language in the bill to ensure that our nation's organ transplantation system recognizes children's unique health care needs. In addition, the amendment provides for a study of immunosuppressive drug coverage for children which was included in the congressionally mandated Institute of Medicine study on Medicare immunosuppressive drug coverage, and on children's unique growth and developmental health and organ transplant needs. **Staff Contact: Bruce Lesley, x5-4431.**

Mr. Luther will offer an amendment, debatable for 10 minutes, that ensures that the policies of the Network would preempt state or local laws, such as those state laws giving citizens priority over organs before the organs may be shipped out the state. **Contact: Christian Field, x5-2271**

Messrs. LaHood, Moakley, Rush, and Peterson will offer an amendment, debatable for 60 minutes, that provides the policies and rules established by the Network will be subject to review and approval by the HHS Secretary. It also requires both HHS and its contractor to apply scientific principles to the development of organ allocation policies. Finally, it ensures that data necessary to evaluate and improve the organ transplant system are provided to the public. **Staff Contact: Jenny Myers, x5-6201**

Mr. Barrett (WI) and Mr. Kleczka will offer an amendment, debatable for 20 minutes, to provide a direct mechanism to foster state organ donor awareness, public education and outreach activities, and programs designed to increase the number of organ donors within the state, including living donors. Specifically, it provides \$15 million (\$5 million more than the bill provides) for states to tackle creatively the challenges inherent in organ donation awareness and education and authorizes direct grants to states and allows partnerships with other public agencies or private sector institutions within states to mutually undertake organ donation activities. **Staff Contact: Tama Mattocks, x5-3571**

Mr. Scarborough and Ms. Thurman will offer an amendment, debatable for 30 minutes, to nullify the final rule issued by the Health and Human Services that gives them the sole authority to approve or disapprove organ allocation policies that are currently established by the private-sector transplant community. **Staff Contact: John Hendricks, x5-4136**

Additional Information: See, *Legislative Digest* Vol. XXIX, #9, March 31, 2000

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